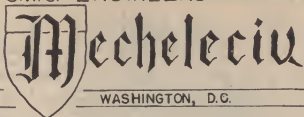


Save For The
SEVENTH
WAR LOAN

VOL. IV NO. 4

G.W.U. ENGINEERS MONTHLY



REMEMBER

MAY 10

ANNUAL BANQUET

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY, 1945



Dr. Durand graduated the U.S. Naval Academy in 1880. Holder of many honorary degrees, he has been a leader in engineering education. He taught at Stanford University for 20 years. Past president of A.S.M.E. and Sigma Xi, Dr. Durand is now chairman of the Engineering and Industrial Engineering Division of the National Academy of Sciences and is considered by the world to be an expert in jet-propulsion. His assistants, it is said, find it hard keeping up with their boss. Dean Feiker summed it all up by calling Dr. Durand "one of the grand old men of the engineering profession."

AMES OVERSEAS

News has reached the MECHANICIV that Col. Norman B. Ames, Head of the Electrical Engineering Department on leave of absence with the U.S. Army, has left the country and is now probably in the Mediterranean Theatre.

Though "Deacon" Ames has had to limit his ties with the Engineering School, he still found time to attend many of its extra-curricular activities. His safe and speedy return and that of 11 million other G.I.'s is prayed for.

ANNUAL BANQUET SATURDAY, MAY 12 DOCTOR DURAND TO SPEAK

Another Spring semester is drawing to a close, but in the Engineering School it cannot be called finished until the Engineers have held their Annual Banquet. This one is their seventeenth.

The Engineers' Council, headed by George Kilpatrick, has scheduled the Banquet for May 12 at 6:30 p.m. The place will be the ballroom of the Roger Smith Hotel, 18th and Penn. Ave. N.W. The admission will cost \$2.75.

Highlighting the evening will be a talk by Dr. William F. Durand, entitled "Reminiscences of a Young Man of 55." He will be introduced by Col. Clarence E. Davies.

The Banquet, at which Sigma Tau gives an award to the outstanding freshman scholar and Theta Tau presents an award to the graduating senior who has done the most for the Engineering School, serves as the culmination of all the work we Engineers have done during the past school year.

Even more than the Engineers' Ball, the Banquet will afford the opportunity for alumni to return and meet their future colleagues and also renew old acquaintanceships. About 100 men are expected to be present.

Tickets may be purchased from any Council member or at Dean Feiker's office. Reservations are requested, and may be made through the MECHANICIV office, phone Executive 7599.

COUNCIL 1944-5

The Engineers' Council inaugurated its program of activities by producing a Mixer on October 11. The feature attraction was a quiz contest between three members of the engineering faculty and three students chosen from the audience. In case you have forgotten, the students emerged victorious whereupon the faculty protested on the grounds of something or other. We wonder if they still think the contest was "fixed".

The next activity attempted by the Council was the decorating of a tree on the campus with Christmas tree lights and the presenting of this tree to the University with an appropriate ceremony. Despite bitter cold weather a goodly number of faculty members and students turned out to hear Dr. Marvin, President of the University, make the speech of acceptance. The

(cont. on page 2)



Col. Davies, National Secretary of A.S.M.E., is on leave of absence from this post and is now with the Ordnance Division of the U.S. Army. It is rumored that he is a good teller of tales so come prepared to hear some good stories.



The MECHELECIV is put out monthly by the undergraduates of the Engineering School of George Washington University. It is prepared at 620 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Executive 7599, and it may be reached at this address.

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PLEASE NOTE

Many people have blasted at the Engineers for their attitude toward things not directly tied to Engineering by a formula. We have the reputation of being tied up in books, drawing boards, and slide rules and contemptuous of all others who are not fettered to the same things. We shun discussions if they can not be put in formulas, we are scornful of those that are interested in the arts, in political science, and in all other subjects which can not be found in and Engineers' handbook. We are proud of this stand - we like our reputation of intolerance and snobbery.

That is the way matters are. Do we really like it? Can we be proud of our position? Perhaps, if we stop to think, without our slide rules and handbooks, we can realize that many of the problems that confront the Engineer are not solvable by any formula or known law of science. We have much to learn in other fields, and now is the time to start learning, while we are in college.

Listen to the older Engineers who have spoken to us in the past—they all say in one voice "you have lots more to learn in college than slip-stick science." Stop, think and listen to something besides Engineering, at least once a day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Here's a letter that recently arrived at the MECHELECIV office from Ray Casella, now in the Army: "Just a 'quickie' to let you know that a copy of the February MECHELECIV was relayed to me out here in the Marianas Islands. I want

(cont. next column)

ALUMNI

Col. Howard Wilkinson Hodgkins, U.S. Army, B.S. in C.E., 1913, L.L.B. 1916 who saw 15 months service in North Africa and Italy as Command of anti-aircraft group, has retired to rejoin his old law firm at 38 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Edwin A. Schmitt, C.E. 1934, now Senior Engineer, U. S. Office of Engineers, War Department, receiver of alumni award June, 1940, president of G.W.U. Engineering Alumni Association 1937 to 1939, has been nominated as one of 4 candidates for alumni trustee of the University.

Bernard B. Chew, B.S.M.E. 1940, now design engineer for the Iycoing Engine Co., Williamsport, Penn., recently paid a visit to the University.

Rafe Cahn became the papa of a baby girl on April 12th.

Michael Bondy is now a private in the Army, stationed at Camp Lee, Va.

Whit Beatson was last reported in India, doing Navy Duty with the Army Air Forces.

(cont. from previous column)

you and your staff to know that I think you're doing a swell job. It sure was good to get some news about the old alma mummy.

"I especially was interested in Prof. Walther's article re graduate study. Might do some of it on Uncle Sam in the very near future."

An anonymous letter slipped into the MECHELECIV box requested us that in view of the use of the Lounge as a place for relaxing and studying to have the black paint removed from the skylight windows.

We are pleased to tell "An Engineering Student" that we have passed on his request to the University Business Manager who said that he will have it tended to very soon.

In the past year the MECHELECIV has come a little closer to its goal of being a real honest-to-goodness newspaper. Though the issues have come out somewhat sporadically, when they did appear it is the feeling of the staff that they were the best that had come out to date. If the MECHELECIV continues to improve, as we are sure it will, we think it will be a real credit to the Engineering School and the University.

COUNCIL 1944-45

(cont. from front page)

program also included selected Christmas music by the Glee Club and the singing of familiar carols by those in attendance.

Instead of a mixer meeting at the beginning of the Spring term, the Council decided to have a joint meeting of all the engineering societies. The A.I.E.E. was authorized to take charge of this meeting and came through with an interesting speaker and an otherwise worthwhile program.

Next, came the function that many will consider the most outstanding of the school year - the Annual Engineers' Ball. In spite of the curfew law and the absence of the much advertised Kiss-o-meter, the Ball turned out to be a huge success.

At present the members of the council are devoting their efforts towards making the Engineers' Banquet a memorable one. An interesting and entertaining program is being arranged so that this will be a fitting conclusion to the engineering school year.

Besides the major activities just listed, numerous matters of lesser consideration come before the council, such as the preparation of a calendar scheduling the meeting dates of all engineering school organizations, the Mixers, the Ball, the Banquet, and various special events. The Engineers' Lounge is under the jurisdiction of the Council and its refurnishing and enlargement in all probability will be discussed by next year's Council. Various grievances between undergraduates and faculty are often ironed out before action is necessary by the Dean's Council. These are just a few of the things that come before the Engineers' Council for consideration.

And now in closing, the Council wishes to express its thanks to the Business Manager, the Dean and Faculty, the Student Council, the Glee Club, and all others who helped to make this a successful year.

ESMWT DISCONTINUED

The Office of Education has notified Professor Hitchcock, Director of the ESMWT courses at the University, to discontinue registration for the coming group of courses. It is not known whether this is a permanent or temporary expediency.

M.E. and You

With our May second meeting, A.S.M.E. is closing a very profitable and interesting year. We can boast of having 27 paid-up members at this time, which is very good considering that in normal times the maximum membership was 44.

Our meetings this year were based on a member-interest poll taken at the first meeting, to insure the presentation of subjects interesting to the majority of members. The first meeting, of course, was the October Mixer, at which freshmen and new members of the Engineering School became acquainted with us, and had a chance to join. At the second, in November, Dr. Johnson, just returned from War Leave, told us about "The Seamo-bile," a subject on which he is eminently qualified to speak. In December we joined the A.I.E.E. to near Mr. McDougald of the Capital Transit Co. on "The Design of the Postwar Streetcar." Mr. Elmer Briggs, Jr., of the C.A.A. spoke to us in January on "The Non-Military Aircraft Engine," illustrated with slides and a display of some sample parts.

Instead of the usual February Mixer Meeting, the combined Engineering societies heard Mr. Sherman, who came from Detroit to tell us about "The Postwar Automobiles." A student, Mr. S.S. Ped-nos, Ordnance Engineer, spoke to us on "Artillery Ammunition" at our March meeting. The April meeting was devoted to our annual Student Speakers contest. The winner was Bob Kemelhor, whose subject was "Design of Bomb Release Mechanisms." He received a hand-book as prize, and will represent our chapter at the Regional Student Branch Meeting, which will be held at Raleigh, N.C. At the same meeting we selected Ed Berdahl, our President, to receive the one-

(cont. next column.)

Short Circuits

The George Washington Branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers is able to look back over its year's activity with a feeling of pride in that it has gained new members and has presented to its members varied and interesting meetings.

After student member Dave Carlson gave his talk on "The Applications of Industrial Heating" at the first meeting, the Branch embarked on a novel program for the year. It took the subject - "Transportation and Electrical Engineering" as its theme and succeeding meetings brought men outstanding in the fields of such transportation problems as the street car, the sea-going ship, the automobile, and the railroad.

A.I.E.E. was also the guiding light of the Mixer Meeting held in February. During the year, A.S.M.E. and A.S.C.E. were guests at the EE's meetings.

As the year comes to an end, I wish to thank those people who cooperated in making this a banner year and especially to Fred Holcomb for his work as Program Chairman.

M.E. and You (cont.)

year Junior Membership in the parent society, which will be presented to him at their May 10th meeting.

The officers this year were: President - E.O. Berdahl; Vice-President - W.J. Armstrong; Treasurer - Isadore Cook; Secretary - Harmon Holcomb; Council Members - Ed Berdahl and Arnold Kronstadt.

Great minds discuss ideas;
mediocre minds discuss things;
small minds discuss people.

Walter Winchell

Am. Soc. C.E.

George Washington University Student Chapter, 1944-45 - still waiting for the war to end, for Uncle Sammel to return to a 39 hour week, and for the abolishment of all exams. All this so that we might participate in our Chapter's activities without inhibitions. But at least, we kept alive.

Throughout the last year we lost a few men—Erwin Shalowitz donned tight, blue breeches, Roland Austin and Merrill Brown camouflaged themselves in khaki, and Harry "Fillbuster" Balmer started tossing skilletts for the Merchant Marine. Otho Michaelus, our former program master, has been missing this year also, mostly because of a heavy schedule.

Back in November we heard Mr. Barber, soil mechanics expert from the Public Roads Administration, and watched his interesting laboratory demonstration. And believe it or not, he squeezes on the bulb of a large eyedropper and the water goes into the bulb from the stem instead of coming out.

Then in January, Mr. Fahrman, instructor of Sanitary Engineering here at G. W., showed us a film (colorful but odorless) about the sewage treatment plant at Blue Plains, D.C.

At two of our meetings we tried the lantern lectures supplied by our parent society; and found them quite worthwhile, despite a makeshift projector arrangement for one of the sets of slides. One was about "Grand Coulee Dam" out in Washington (state), the other about "Waterloo Bridge" over in London.

We plan to have student papers at our next meeting. Also the election of officers for next year. So come on out, you CE's—let's begin building our bridges for next year!

We'll be at the Engineers' Banquet on May 12.



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THETA TAU

Because of losses due to graduation and the Selective Service Law, Gamma Beta chapter of Theta Tau started the school year with the smallest number of active members in its 10 years existence at George Washington University. However, the men of Theta Tau are loyal sons of the university and of the engineering school in particular, so that wherever there was a meeting that pertained to engineering or engineers you could be sure that a member of Theta Tau had a hand in it. The presidents of all the student societies and fraternities and most of their officers, the entire Engineers' Council, and the engineering school representative to the Student Council are members of Theta Tau. It is evident then, that the men in Theta Tau are interested in the welfare of their school and profession.

One of the nice things about Theta Tau is that membership does not end with graduation. The National Capital Alumni Association of Theta Tau which has been inactive since the start of the war, decided in September, 1944 to become active and since that time has helped the student chapter in many ways. We in Gamma Beta have been proud to meet not only the alumni from Gamma Beta but also those from many other chapters in schools throughout the country.

Founder's Day was celebrated with appropriate and impressive ceremonies in Columbian House on October 15, 1944. Among the alumni present were several high ranking Army and Navy officers.

On December 16, 1944, the Alumni Association sponsored a stag party at Meadowbrook to which the actives and prospective actives were invited. This was a well-planned affair and everyone really had a good time. We actives are looking forward with anticipation to the party the Alumni are planning for us in the early part of June.

The initiation, banquet, and dance held on March 17 to commemorate the 10th birthday of Gamma Beta chapter was noteworthy for several reasons. First of all because of the following men who were initiated into Theta Tau: Alfred Albert, Stuart Beaton, Rudolph Gareau, Felix Geiseler, Girard Jetton, Barry Kreisberg, Arnold Kronstadt, Haaren Miklofsky, and Earl Pritchett. Secondly, at the banquet there was the thrill and joy of talking, singing, and eating with those you

(cont. in next column)

SIGMA TAU

XI Chapter is pretty short of man-power these days. Since the loss of Lyle Tarbell, Harry Balser, and Ed Kabib, the active membership has included just five members. But we are happy to announce the pledging of Haaren Miklofsky, Robert Kuntz, Stuart Bonwit, and Bernard Bernstein. All four of these fellows will be formally initiated into Sigma Tau by the end of the semester.

Yes, we could have a larger pledge class. But membership, selected from the juniors and seniors who rank scholastically in the upper third of their classes, is limited by qualifications of sociability and practicality. To be selected for membership, an engineering student must be not only academically savvy, but an active participant in the activities of the engineering student body. So for the good of this Chapter, the Engineering School and yourselves, we urge you fellows who are unknown to us to get out to the society meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month and get yourselves under way.

As is our custom, we intend to present a medal to the person who attained the highest scholastic average as a freshman during the 1943-1944 school year. The name of the young genius will be announced at the Engineers' Banquet at the Roger Smith Hotel, May 12 (plg).

Four of our members are patting each other on the back for intending to graduate. So congratulations to Ed Berdahl, Girard Jetton, Jim Spiles, and Bill Halsey.

THETA TAU (cont.)

know and cherish as fellow members. Thirdly, there was the beautiful, huge birthday cake presented by the Alumni Association. Finally, there was the dance with its Paul Jones and other fun that successfully culminated a memorable evening.

In spite of the war and its restrictions, Gamma Beta chapter of Theta Tau has had a good year. However, with the aid of the new members and the coming school year should be an even better one.

Alfred Barnack is the new Regent; David Carlson, vice-regent; Stuart Beaton, scribe; and Barnack and Fred Holcomb are the members to the Engineers' Council.

ENGINEERS and PEOPLE



HOWARD H. KOSTER

PROFESSOR HOWARD H. KOSTER was born and received all of his education up through U. of M. Graduate School in Michigan. From school he did testing and research work for some large manufacturing companies until he started teaching at Case Technical School and Detroit Institute of Technology.

Professor Koster joined the full-time faculty of G.W.U. in 1936 and remained until he obtained War Leave in June of 1941. Since 1941 he has worked in Defense Housing, War Department, and British Ministry of Supply.

Professor Koster is now back teaching part-time in the University, and looks forward to a graduate school here for the Engineers in due course.

School Daze

And then there was the sailor who wished he was nobody, because nobody gets a thirty day pass.

Don't go around with a married woman unless you can go two rounds with her husband.

Engineer: Sweetheart, I'd marry you, but it would be bigamy - too darn big o' me.

On duty, he's a subchaser Off duty, he isn't so particular.

He kissed her on the forehead, knowing she'd call him down.

That lighthouse is no good - it blows its horn and flashes its light, but the fog doesn't go away.